

Appln No. 09/575,171

Amdt. March 17, 2004

Response to Advisory action of February 19, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

The present response amends the claims as pending on the date of the last Office Action mailed September 17, 2003. The Examiner rejected claims 1-81. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 11, 33, 41, 43, 65, and 71 have been amended, and claims 7, 39, and 70 have been cancelled. Therefore claims 1-6, 8-38, 40-69, and 71-81 remain pending in the application.

Advisory Action

In the Advisory Action mailed February 19, 2004, the Examiner stated: "Currently amended claims 1, 33, and 65 state that a digital signature of digital content related to the computer software is generated using a signature key of the user. Since the term 'signature key' is not further defined in the claims, the Examiner has given it the broadest most reasonable interpretation. The Examiner believes that the signature or codeword disclosed by Hilton (USPN 5,107,541), from which a signal representative of a digitised version is generated and stored by an integrated circuit (column 9, line 14-21), still satisfies this limitation. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a private key) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)."

In response to the Advisory Action, the present amendment further limits claims 1, 33, and 65 by clarifying that the signature key is a private key. For example, claim 1 now includes the added step of "generating, in the computer system and **using a signature key of the user that is a private key**, a digital signature of digital content related to the computer software" (emphasis added). As shown in Hilton at col. 9, lines 15-17, the "codeword" of Hilton is a handwritten password that is written by a user for example on a tablet outside an entrance. The "signature key of the user that is a private key" of currently amended independent claims 1, 33 and 65 is not a handwritten password but is rather a private key that is already stored in a computer system, having been generated and placed there for example when a user first registers with the system. Therefore the applicant asserts that all of the currently amended claims are novel and non-obvious in light of the prior art cited by the Examiner.

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Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.
Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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